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SUBJECT Increasing Rumors Regarding Rift between
Field Marshal Papagos and King Paul

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1. There have reportedly been increasing rumors concerning a rift between Field Marshal Papagos and King Paul, according to which the Palace is said to have told Papagos to concern himself strictly with military duties. This is interpreted by many Athenians as an indication that the John Diakos newspaper attack against the Palace entourage (specifically, Aristides Metaxas) was believed to have been inspired by Papagos.*
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2. [REDACTED] "completely unconfirmed" rumor states that Papagos is in contact with Michael Kyros; this, allegedly, is the reason for the Greek guerrilla radio attack on Kyros.** It is also being said that, by reaching an understanding with Kyros, Papagos is attempting to isolate the extreme left, thus paving the way to political cooperation between the various factions ranging from the extreme right to the left, excluding only the KKE. Papagos is allegedly being guided by a newspaper article written by Spyros Markezinis entitled "Transitional Government."
- 25X1X 3. In addition, [REDACTED] Papagos was trying to obtain the cooperation of Constantine Maniadakis' Party for the Regeneration of Greece, the Populist Unionist Party of Stephanopoulos and Kanellopoulos, and the Union of Democratic Leftists of John Sophianopoulos.

25X1A Comment: Constantine Maniadakis claimed early in March 1951 that Ethnikos Kyri, in which the Diakos letter was published, was now entirely under the domination of Spyros Markezinis, who would "stop at nothing" to effect the Papagos solution.

25X1A * Comment: Presumably the clandestine Free Greece broadcast of 13 April 1951 is meant here. In a commentary entitled "Peace or War," dealing with supposed attempts of the "Papagos clique" to implement the allured Astrawi ("lightning") Plan (according to which Greece was planning to foster revolution within Albania to provide an excuse for intervention), it was stated that "there are persistent rumors that Michael Kyros is on their side" (i.e., that of Papagos). Such an attack on Kyros might well be an attempt, on the part of the KKE, to cloak him with sufficient political "respectability" to permit his negotiating with other Greek political parties, who might be averse to do so if he were not apparently disassociated with the KKE.

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